



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

28th MARCH 2021: PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Palms, a Donkey and a Cross - great signs of Kingship

It's certainly true that a Royal procession attracts great interest. If you think of the times when it happens in the UK there is much ceremony and pomp to add to the attraction; gold gilt coaches; brass bands; guards of honour; attendants in uniforms and at the centre of the Procession the Monarch or Royal Personage wearing their robes of state whilst waving benignly at the adoring crowds of people. You can be sure that the Royal Personage is not going down the road to buy a packet of tea or a bottle of milk! They are going somewhere for a purpose: a royal wedding, the State Opening of Parliament or a Coronation. So, what is the purpose of Jesus entering into Jerusalem and why are the crowds greeting him in such a royal manner? Well St John's Gospel, the alternative Gospel writer for this Year's Palm Sunday, can provide us with some interesting answers.

First, it might be worth mentioning that in John's Gospel we find the only reference to Palm branches being waved in the Gospels giving us the title of the Day we celebrate. However, John would draw our attention to the context of the triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, and to think about what has just happened before and what was said after the Procession. Herein lies the answer to our questions.

Jesus had been anointed on the head by Mary - a powerful symbol of the acknowledgement that here is the King-Messiah. It is also a deeply spiritual action linking His Kingship with His death for the people - costly ointment was used to anoint the body before burial. Mary's reverence is shown by the way she wipes Jesus' feet with her hair. As she removes some of the ointment with her hair she gives another powerful sign that the grave will not be able to hold Him.

Secondly, Jesus was at Bethany when he was anointed. It was the place where he had raised His friend Lazarus from the dead. The crowd that gathered for this miracle was amazed and convinced that Jesus was the King; they swarmed around him like those who swarm around popular heroes of today, and, when they heard he was heading for Jerusalem, gave him a Royal tribute by their praise and signs of admiration and respect. They were His people. It is at this point, too, that Jesus had truly conquered His enemies the Pharisees as they complain that all their plans have misfired. Their interpretation of the Law has become impotent, and to confound them all the more Jesus mounts a beast of peace, a donkey, rather than a war horse, and instead of armed soldiers, has the people's love and devotion. They wave harmless Palms instead of weapons.

I will end by saying that I am always intrigued by folk-law. There is one which is associated with the donkey which seems appropriate to share today. You will know it I am sure. The reason, it is said, that there is always a cross on the back of a donkey is attributed to the fact that it carried Jesus. I like the way in which this supports the beast of peace to the Cross of peace and reconciliation that Jesus came to bring. Unfortunately, we also know that his message would result in His violent death, but instead of the Cross being consigned to an instrument of burden and death, it becomes a place of hope to those who continue in Faith. It is in *the Cross that we Glory*, as St Paul states, so, let us proudly wave our Palm Crosses and greet with joy Our King and Saviour as we begin Holy Week.

Fr Bruce

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the **Reflection of Bishop Philip on Holy Week** you can find this on our homepage.
If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

Newsletter items should be received into the Parish Office by Wednesday 9:30am

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 28th March 2021: Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

READINGS:

1st reading: Isaiah 50:4-7 **Psalm:** 21 **2nd reading:** Philippians 2:6-11 **Gospel:** Mark 14:1-15:47

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 4TH APRIL - EASTER SUNDAY:

1st reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 **Psalm:** 117 **2nd reading:** Colossians 3:1-4 **Gospel:** John 20:1-9

PARISH GROUPS



Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Saturday at 11.00am**. To join and for more info please click the Stars of Abraham Icon on our homepage.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Saturday at 2.00pm**. To join and for more info please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Friday at 8.00pm**. To join and for more info please click the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Groups

Every Wednesday with fr Luca through Zoom.

Every Thursday at 8pm with fr Raffaele through Zoom.

For more information please click the links on the homepage of our website.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Deacon Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Fellowship Group Lenten Suppers & Bible Study Course Wednesday evenings

Lenten Suppers - 7.00-7.30pm via Zoom

Join us with soup, bread, cheese and a chat. Raising funds for CAFOD and Fledge Eastleigh.

Bible Study - 7.30-9.00pm via Zoom

"Rebuilding the Ruins" looking at our world through the eyes of the Old Testament Prophets.

Week 6 - Rebuilding the Ruins

If you would like to join us please contact Bob and Marion Birtles for the Zoom link:

bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MESSAGES



Stations of the Cross During Holy Week

St Swithun Wells - Tuesday at 10am

OLQA - Wednesday at 7.30pm, it will also be available via Zoom, see our website for the link.

St Edward - Good Friday at 10am

Booking System for Easter - Please pick up your copy of the Easter Triduum Services Sheet. Just like Christmas there is an online booking system in place for Holy Week (from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday). Please go to our website to book your places. If you do not have access to a computer please ask friends/family to book on your behalf.

Upcoming Collections

Good Friday for Christians in the Holy Land.

In addition to the usual ways of giving, an online giving page has been set up:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/good-friday-collection-for-christians-in-the-holy-land>

The Easter Sunday Collection traditionally supports our parish priests, in recognition for all their dedication, guidance and care they give across our parish. For your convenience there are several ways of making these offerings:

- Loose cash or cheques in the collection basket (please make cheques out to PRCDTR St Swithun Wells with Easter offering on the back);
- If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your offering you can use the yellow envelopes provided in the reception area of each church. Please ensure all relevant info is included so we can reclaim the gift aid on your behalf.
- Bank Transfer to the main parish account (Sort code: 30-93-04, A/c: 01786599 using ref: Easter);
- Click the 'Clergy Easter Offering' donate button on our parish website.

St Edward's Easter Vigil Baptisms and Reception

Please pray for Denise Karnecki, Kate Bottigliero and Sabina Touskova who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil and for Graham Applin who will be received into the Church. They will be joined for Confirmation by Robert Roddy.

Holy Week Posters

The Knights of St Columba wish all parishioners a Happy Easter and invite everyone to pick up a Holy Week poster which is available in our churches from this weekend. A similar poster from Communion & Liberation is also available for you to pick up.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Parish Get2Gether via Zoom

Sunday 28th March, 3.00-4.30pm

An event for all the people of the parish with games, songs, activities for the children and conversations for the adults. Please go to our website for more information and how to join.

Frassati Centre Survey - What do you think about the Frassati Centre and our parish vision? We would really like to know and understand your views on this. Please take the time to fill in the survey which is on our website, it should only take 10 minutes to complete and your comments and thoughts are important in shaping our future! If you don't have access to the internet please pick up a paper copy of the survey from one of our churches.

Upcoming Funeral

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Peckham and his family. John's funeral Mass will take place at **St Edward on Wednesday 7th April at 11am.**

Chrim Mass at St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth

Tuesday 30th March, 11am

This will be live streamed, to watch please go to: <https://www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/live-mass.php>

The Parish Office

Will be closed on **Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th March** (Linda is on annual leave for 2 weeks). Sarah will be in the office on Wednesday 31st and Maundy Thursday. The Office **will then close from Good Friday. It will then be open on Wed 7th & Thursday 8th April; closed on Friday 9th April.**

Message from Ted & Monica

We would like to thank you for all the cards, flowers and gifts following the death of our beloved daughter Cheryl. The church community have been a great comfort and support at this difficult time.

LIVE STREAMED MASS, BOOKING SYSTEM & ROSARY

Live Streamed Mass

All of the Masses from Holy Cross & OLQA are live streamed. To join please go to our parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
For details of all of our Public Masses please see the timetable on the back page of the newsletter.

Online Booking System For Holy Week (Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday)

Please go to our website to book your places.
If you do not have access to a computer please ask friends/family to book on your behalf.

Confessions (27th-30th March)

St Joseph, Saturday at 5.30pm
St Andrew, Sunday at 8.30am
St Edward, Tuesday 6.30-7.30pm

Communal Praying of the Rosary with Meditations from the Holy Cross Presbytery **Tuesdays & Wednesday at 6.00pm through Zoom**

For more information and to join please click the link on the homepage of our website. You can send your intentions to:
pagani.matteoalexandro@gmail.com

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

During Holy Week

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
Wednesdays: Fr Luca, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh

CLERGY

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mvignolo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 01489 890947 (OLQA Office)

Deacon Bob Birtles

Tel: 023 8069 2416; E: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon John di Meo

Tel: 01794 515688; E: jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen

Tel: 023 80254806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 02380 616618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE

Address: Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road,
Eastleigh SO50 9DF

Tel: 02380 273882 (see message about closures)

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance

Admin: Linda Roberts

Works full day Mon-Wed, half day Thursday (now on leave for 2 weeks)

lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow

Works Wed to Friday from 9.30am until 2.30pm
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 27th March	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Patricia Cowling RIP
	11.00am	Holy Cross	Lent Penitential Service
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	Mary Quinn (Well-being)
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Dian Sebi (Birthday)
	6.30pm	St Edward	Angie & Felino Cagampang (In Thanksgiving)
Sun 28th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	For the People of the Parish
	9.00am	St Andrew	Maria Giannini RIP
	9.30am	OLQA (also Live Streamed)	
	10.30am	St Edward	Anne & Sean Connolly RIP
	11.00am	St Joseph	Sr Bernadine McAuliffe (Well-being)
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Alan Jones RIP (2nd Anniversary)
Mon 29th March	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Beatrice & George White; David, Laura & Eduardo Fernandes FM Frieda Seal RIP
Tues 30th March	10.00am	St Andrew	
	6.00pm	St Edward	Julia Jackson RIP FM
Wed 31st March	10.00am	St Edward	Mary McCormack RIP
Maundy Thursday 1st April	7.00pm	St Andrew	Hesla Rayment RIP
	7.30pm	OLQA (also Live Streamed)	
	7.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Mary Webber RIP FM
Friday 2nd April Good Friday Services	10.00am	St Edward	Stations of the Cross
	3.00pm	OLQA (also Live Streamed)	
	3.00pm	St Andrew	
	5.00pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	
Holy Saturday 3rd April Easter Vigil	8.00pm	OLQA (also Live Streamed)	
	8.30pm	St Joseph	Joseph Poulo RIP
	8.30pm	St Edward	Mary Ann & Hugh Mcternan RIP and their deceased and living relatives
Sunday 4th April Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	Umberto Pugi RIP (3rd Anniversary)
	9.00am	St Andrew	Wendy & Damien Doherty (30th Wedding Anniversary)
	9.30am	OLQA (also Live Streamed)	
	10.30am	St Edward	Keith Small RIP
	11.00am	St Joseph	Mrs Tren Ginevra RIP FM
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Hugh & Sheila O'Neill (60th Wedding Anniversary)
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	For the People of the Parish
	5.00pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Ted & Monica Dunne (60th Wedding Anniversary)